

AMENDMENT TO SPECIFICATION - ABSTRACT

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Abstract

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A power system (8) is provided for economically supplying uninterrupted electrical power to one or more critical loads (14). One or more fuel cell power plants (18) provide one substantially continuous source of power, and a utility grid (10) provides another source of power. The fuel cell power plants (18) are normally substantially continuously connected and providing power to, the critical load(s) (14). A rapidly-acting static switch (19) selectively disconnects and reconnects the grid power supply (10) to the critical load(s) (14) and with the fuel cell power plant(s) (18) for abnormal and normal grid operation, respectively. A switch controller (49, 45) controls the state of the static switch (19) to rapidly (less than 4 ms) make the disconnections and reconnections. The fuel cell power plants (18) each include power conditioning systems (PCS) indirectly controlled by the switch controller (49, 45) to in turn rapidly transition the PCSs of the fuel cell power plants (18) between grid connected and grid independent modes.